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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,991	07/30/2001	Roger L. Palmer	4898*2	9771
23416	7590	12/04/2003		
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP P O BOX 2207 WILMINGTON, DE 19899			EXAMINER HWANG, JOON H	
			ART UNIT 2172	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/917,991

Applicant(s)

PALMER, ROGER L.

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The pending claims are 1-18.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolfston, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,155) in view of PR Newswire ("Internetsoccer.Com Expands Localized Services for Global Community, PR Newswire Association Inc., 5/1/2000).

With respect to claim 1, Wolfston discloses providing a Web site that includes a searchable database of schools (lines 27-57 in col. 6, lines 3-10 in col. 7, and fig. 4). Wolfston discloses providing a search criteria input system, which implements as electronic search input process and provides users with various search criteria from which the users may choose to vary the scope of a search for schools (lines 11-32 in col. 7 and fig. 4). Wolfston discloses providing a school display system, which displays information about the schools matching the search criteria inputted by the users, wherein the information is stored in the searchable database of the Web site (lines 27-57 in col. 6, lines 33-67 in col. 7, and fig. 4). Wolfston also discloses searching scholarships (fig. 4a). Wolfston does not explicitly disclose athletes for searching

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colleges to be recruited. However, Newswire discloses a web site for recruiting athletes that allows student athletes as users to search a college/college program that matches their soccer skills, scholarship requirements, and educational goals (4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> paragraphs) to be recruited. Therefore, based on Wolfston in view of Newswire, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize teachings of Newswire to Wolfston for allowing student athletes to search colleges for recruitment.

With respect to claim 2, Wolfston further discloses displaying additional information about a school (lines 33-48 in col. 7), which could be used for displaying detailed information. Therefore, the limitations of claim 2 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1 above, and the claim 2 is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 3, Wolfston further discloses the search criteria comprising one of a state where a school is located and a region of the country where a school is located (fig. 4 and lines 3-32 in col. 7).

With respect to claim 4, Wolfston discloses a user may type in any part of a school name to see if that college is listed in the searchable database of the Web site (lines 3-32 in col. 7 and fig. 4). The limitations of claim 4 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1 above, and the claim 4 is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 5, Wolfston discloses searching information listed in the searchable database of the Web site with a search criteria (lines 3-32 in col. 7 and fig. 4), which searching teaches matching or comparing information in the database with the search criteria for a search result.

With respect to claim 6, Wolfston discloses links to Internet sites of the schools in the list (lines 33-48 in col. 7), which can be displayed as additional information. The limitations of claim 6 are rejected in the analysis of claim 2 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

4. Claims 7-12 are essentially the same as claims 1-6 except that is sets forth the claimed invention as a system rather than a method and rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

5. Claims 13-18 are essentially the same as claims 1-6 except that is sets forth the claimed invention as a computer readable medium rather than a method and rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hitchcock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,278), Angelucci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,573), McGovern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,768), Brouwer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,657,462), Whitley et al. (U.S. Pub No. US2001/0034734 A1), San Francisco Chronicle ("scouting, surfing for preps online profiles let college coaches peruse", Chronicle Publ. Co., 8/21/1997), PR Newswire ("athletes and coaches take to the net!", PR Newswire Association, Inc., 4/11/1996), and Business Wire ("LevelEdge.com Bridges Gap Between Haves and Have-Nots With Online Sports Management Solution.", Business Wire, 3/30/2000) disclose searching colleges and jobs.

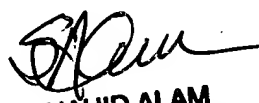
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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 703-305-6469. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Joon Hwang  
11/19/03



SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER